

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STD AWARENESS MONTH, APRIL 2011

San Bernardino: Approximately, 10,000 sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are reported yearly in San Bernardino County, with the highest number among young people 15 to 24 years old, according to the California Department of Public Health, STD Control Branch. As part of STD Awareness Month, the Department of Public Health, Clinic Operations program would like to encourage residents to Get Tested.

“Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) pose a serious public health threat to County residents—particularly adolescents, young adults, and African Americans,” said Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., Health Officer of San Bernardino County Department of Public Health. Effective prevention strategies have caused STD rates to decrease among all races/ethnicities, but rates among African Americans have remained disproportionately higher regardless of disease or age group.

Successful prevention strategies include:

- Encouraging people to Get Tested
- Outreaching to target communities
- Providing culturally competent community education

STDs such as chlamydia and gonorrhea are major causes of infertility among women. These and other STDs can increase risk of HIV transmission in women and men. The County of San Bernardino’s Department of Public Health, Clinic Operations program provides different strategies for decreasing STDs in the County.

“Most STDs can be effectively treated once diagnosed. As a result, screening becomes particularly important since many STDs often have no signs or symptoms,” stated Dr. Ohikhuare.

For more information or to get tested, contact County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Clinic Services at (800) 722-4777. You can also visit the Department of Public Health website at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph> and go to Public Health Clinics.

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